

Executive Director's Report

January 21, 2004

Announcements

- The Commission received 8 applications for the Commissioner appointment for the term beginning February 1, 2004. We delivered the applications to Secretary of State Brewer yesterday along with the voter registration forms of the candidates. Secretary Brewer is in the process of reviewing the applications and will make the appointment shortly. The Attorney General's Office has hired Peter Silverman to represent the Secretary of State's Office and will be working with the Commission while Diana is out for maternity leave.
- Mary Jo Kief, State Elections Director, will be leaving the Secretary of State's Office at the end of the month to be the Peoria City Clerk. Joe Kanefield has been hired to replace Mary Jo and will start his new position on January 26th.

Voter Education

- Candidate Statement Pamphlet: Working with the Department of Education on distributing letters to high school principals to advertise the cover design contest. A press release about the cover design contest will be issued on January 26th.
- The candidate training class in Flagstaff on January 21, 2004 was cancelled due to lack of interest. The next training class will be in Phoenix on January 28th.
- Working on the training classes to be held specifically for campaign treasurers. Four dates for the training have been scheduled starting in March.
- Public Relations Contract ends in March 2004. The Scope of Work for new PR contract has been drafted Commission consideration at the next meeting.
- In the process of seeking sponsors for the 12 remaining legislative districts. With the holidays, many potential sponsoring organizations were closed or the contact person was out of the office.
- Press releases regarding Gene Lemon's term ending and Dave McKay's election as Chair were issued last week. Gene Lemon will be meeting with the *Arizona Republic's* editorial board to discuss his tenure.
- First CCEC newsletter, *The Bulletin*, has been distributed and posted on the website.
- Focus groups scheduled in Phoenix and Tucson for January 27th and 28th. This market research is the 6-month follow up to the telephone survey in July 2003 to gauge the public awareness of the Act.

Enforcement & Litigation

- Possible lawsuit from the Institute for Justice challenging the constitutionality of the Act's matching funds provision.
- Autumn and Diana completed and submitted the changes to the Candidate Statement Pamphlet (i.e. adding candidate photos & increasing word count to 200) to the Department of Justice for preclearance.

- 2004 legislative district ruled unconstitutional for not considering competitiveness requirement. Requested legal advice on giving guidance to candidates regarding the collection of qualifying contributions within their districts.

Budget & Rules

- Proposed rule changes and public comments to be considered at the next meeting. Public comments incorporated into the changes the Commission approved in November, 2003, if possible. Diana is reviewing the public comment changes to determine if the changes are technical or substantive. If the changes are substantive and the Commission approves the changes, then the 60-day public comment would have to begin again on those rules.
- Fund Balance at the end of December was \$ 11,211,653.

Agenda Items for February 24, 2004 Meeting:

- 2003 Annual Report
- Consideration of Debate Sponsors